

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, EAID, LA, CB

SUBJECT: EA/VLC STATUS REPORT NO. 9, JUNE 8, 1978

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/VLC - FREDERICK Z. BROWN

1. HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA (LOU)

PRESS, PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN CAMBODIA CONTINUES TO RUN HIGH. THE MACNEIL/LEHRER REPORT PROGRAM JUNE 6, THE CBS SPECIAL REPORT JUNE 7 AND A SERIES OF PRESS ARTICLES, INCLUDING THE JACK ANDERSON ARTICLES, HAVE KEPT PUBLIC ATTENTION FOCUSED ON CAMBODIA.

A PUBLIC COMMITTEE, PEOPLE UNITED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA, HELD A FAST AND DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE
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WHITE HOUSE JUNE 3-4 AND WILL HOLD A COMMEMORATION CEREMONY AT THE CAPITOL JUNE 12 IN MEMORY OF CAMBODIANS MURDERED SINCE 1975. THIS COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING SIGNATURES ON A PETITION WHICH WOULD REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO MAKE A FULL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CAMBODIA; TO HAVE ICA DISSEMINATE THAT REPORT; TO ADMIT

CAMBODIAN REFUGEES INTO THE U.S. IN A SPECIAL PROGRAM; TO APPLY DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON CAMBODIA TO CEASE ITS ACTS OF GENOCIDE; AND TO HAVE THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION AT THE UNGA CONDEMNING ATROCITIES IN CAMBODIA. THIS PETITION ECHOES A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE BY CONGRESSMAN DORAN AND OTHERS, EXCEPT THAT THE DORAN RESOLUTION DOES NOT ADDRESS A REFUGEE PROBLEM.

FREEDOM HOUSE IS SPONSORING A COLLOQUIM, "CAMBODIA: WHAT CAN AMERICA DO," ON CAPITOL HILL JUNE 8. SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS ON CAMBODIA ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION IN CONGRESS AND NEW STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA ARE READ INTO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ALMOST DAILY.

WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING BACKGROUND FOR MANY OF THE TELEVISION AND PRESS REPORTS. HA AND VLC ARE ATTENDING AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THE PUBLIC MEETINGS ON CAMBODIA. WE ARE ALSO ASKING EMBASSY BANGKOK TO SUPPLY UNCLASSIFIED INTERVIEWS WITH RECENTLY-ARRIVED CAMBODIAN REFUGEES FOR SUBMISSION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMISSION MEETING IN AUGUST.

2. LAOS FOOD AID (LOU)

SINCE THE DECISION TO PROVIDE 10,000 TONS OF PL-480,
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TITLE II FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LAOS BECAME PUBLIC MAY 31, WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS, CABLES AND TELEPHONE CALLS FROM CHURCH GROUPS WELCOMING THIS DECISION AND TELEPHONE CALLS AND ONE CABLE FROM MIA ORGANIZATIONS PROTESTING THE DECISION. WE HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO THE MIA SPOKESMAN THAT PROVIDING SOME HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE LAO IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH OUR CONTINUING TO PRESS THE LAO GOVERNMENT TO FULFILL THEIR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE AN ACCOUNTING FOR OUR MISSING MEN.

ON THE HOUSE FLOOR CONGRESSMAN BILL YOUNG HAS VOICED HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH THE LAO PROGRAM AND CONGRESSMAN SIMON HAS SUPPORTED IT. WE HAVE HAD LITTLE OTHER PUBLIC CONGRESSIONAL REACTION THUS FAR.

FRED BROWN BRIEFED THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF JUNE 5. QUESTIONING WAS RIGOROUS BUT INTELLIGENT, REFLECTING A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF OUR DECISION TO AID LAOS. DURING THE JUNE 7 LONG SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEES, (REP. YOUNG IN ATTENDANCE), LAOS PL-480 DID NOT COME UP.

THERE ARE STILL STICKY PROBLEMS TO BE WORKED OUT ON
ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD DELIVERY, AND DISTRIBUTION,
AND VLC IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH AID/FOOD FOR PEACE AND
IO/WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OFFICES.

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